

A Presentation to the City of London Energy and Sustainability Sub committee

6Feb 2012

Prepared by a Team comprising
The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators
on behalf of WET 10, WaterSafe and Thames Water



The Wet 10

The Wet 10 is an informal group of Livery Companies with a common interest in the long term health of the water environment

–in fact we are neither 10 (last year's debate was supported by 13 companies) nor 'wet' (in the conventional sense!)

–we range from suppliers of water (Water Conservators/Plumbers) through to users (Farmers/Gardeners etc.)

The group was talked about for a long time and was finally set up at the instigation of the Master Water Conservator and the Master Launderer in 2008

The aims of the Wet 10 are to promote awareness, to contribute to debate. and to be an influence for the good as regards the water environment



The Wet 10 Activities

Our main event is the Annual City Water Debate held early in March each year

Previous speakers have included

- John Gummer/Lord Deben and Philip Fletcher
- Jonathan Porritt and Ken Harvey
- The Earl of Selborne and Sir Peter Mason
- Baron Redesdale and Sir John Beddington

This year's debate is on the highly topical question 'Droughts and Floods: What's happening to the weather?'

- speakers are the Chief Executives of the Environment Agency and of the Met Office (Dr Paul Leinster and John Hirst)
- 6.00pm on 4 March at Glazier's Hall; places still available at £20 per head (flyer attached)

–We also set up ad hoc events

- e.g. very successful farm visit in May 2012 on the topic of farming and water courtesy of Past Master Farmer



The Wet 10 Organisation

We are uniquely well placed to speak with authority and take a broad view

- run by management committee comprising Masters and Past Masters who are senior figures in their respective industries or professions
- cross sectoral, embracing suppliers and users of water as well as key service industries
- access to different ideas ranging from academia , regulators , policy makers , managers
- we take long term overarching view rather than promote the interests of any one trade (different from a trade association)
- though we are City based we raise issues which affect UK and world in general

A good example of the relevance of the Livery movement to the wider world

Current Chairman of Wet 10 is Colin Drummond , Past Master
Water Conservator

- Chris Sneath past Master Plumber takes over as Chairman in March



What are some of the issues facing the delivery of water services

- * Changes to the regulation of utility water services including more competition
- * Concerns about the cost of water
- * Safer and more reliable plumbing services
- * Changes to the environmental regulation of water as part of the bigger picture of natural resources management

WaterSafe

To develop a national plumbing approval scheme that would **provide recognition** for designated competent plumbers and **provide assurance of competency and compliance** to consumers seeking water supply plumbing work*.

* * scope = work subject to Water Fittings Regulations / Byelaws

The Need for WaterSafe

- * Lack of awareness or understanding by consumers -
 - * *What makes a good plumber?*
 - * *Where do you find one?*
 - * National promotion difficult - multiplicity of schemes and acronyms
 - * Widespread evidence of non-compliance with Water Regulations by installers
- => serious contamination risk

Where WaterSafe has got to

- * A company limited by Guarantee
- * Brand, logo and guidelines defined
- * Certification mark applied for
- * Developing customer facing website
- * Developing scheme details - compliance, governance, Customer Charter and redress, audit process
- * Developing Marketing & Communication Plan

Regulatory change

Increased competition

- * The draft Water Bill extends choice for business customers
- * Market size has already been expanded. The draft Bill proposes to make choice an option for *all* businesses.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- * Under the Flood and Water Management Act, new developments will have to meet national standards for sustainable drainage.
- * Local Authorities will be responsible for owning SuDS, and ensuring they are constructed to national standards.

Climate change

- * Impacts of climate change are difficult to forecast, but...
- * **Water supply:** less water will be available, but demand will rise
- * Inevitable that we'll need to boost supplies
- * **Wastewater:** more short, sharp storms that can quickly overwhelm the sewers



The River Pang at the start of 2012

Local issues in London

- * **Leakage:** our mains replacement work in the City is now largely complete
- * **Sewer flooding:** we are looking increasingly at sustainable drainage as part of the solution
- * **Thames Tideway Tunnel:** next step is submission of a Development Consent Application

